GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1968
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2001
RAILWAY SAFETY FUND
A.K. PREMAJAM;BHIM PRASAD DAHAL;DINESH CHANDRA YADAV;IQBAL AHMED SARADGI;RAMJI LAL SUMAN

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the non-lapseable railway safety fund has been generated so far;

(b) whether the Railways hiked the passenger fare w.e.f. October 1, 2001 to generate funds for railway safety;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the extent to which it would contribute towards non-lapseable railway safety fund;

(e) the percentage of amount earmarked out of railway safety fund for track renewals, signal equipment, replacement of old bridges and other safety related works;

(f) the extent to which the safety of passengers would be ensured by the Railways; and

(g) the other measures being considered to finance the fund?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O.RAJAGOPAL)

(a) to (g) : A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1968 BY SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN, SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI, SHRI BHIM DAHAL, SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV AND PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2001 REGARDING RAILWAY SAFETY FUND.

(a): In the current financial year, the Special Railway Safety Fund is to be funded to the extent of Rs.1400 crores. Of this Rs.1000 crores are being made available by Ministry of Finance, for which a Supplementary Grant is being sought from the Parliament. The balance Rs.400 crores are expected through the levy of a Safety Surcharge on passenger fare with effect from 1st October, 2001. As of now it is too early to have an exact figure of collection from the Safety Surcharge.

(b) to (d) : The safety surcharge, which has been levied on railway passengers from 1st October, 2001, is a surcharge and not a fare hike. The rate of surcharge for different classes and the estimated generation for this fund is given below -

Class of travel	Rate of surcharge per passenger (in rupees)	
	Distance upto 500 km	Distance beyond 500 km
Single journey ticket		
Second (Ordinary)	1	1
Second (M/E)	2	2
Sleeper	10	20
AC Chair Car	20	40
First	20	40
AC 3-tier Sleeper	30	60
AC 2-tier Sleeper	40	80
AC First/Executive	50	100
Monthly Season Ticket		

(MST)		
First class	20	Not applicable
Second class	10	Not applicable
Quarterly Season Ticket (QST)		
First class	60	Not applicable
Second class	30	Not applicable

The entire amount of the above surcharge will contribute towards the non- lapseable Railway Safety Fund. This surcharge is expected to fetch about Rs.5000 crores over 6 fiscal years. The balance Rs.12000 crores of the Railway Safety Fund is expected to be contributed by the Ministry of Finance.

(e): The approximate break-up of the percentage of amount earmarked for renewal of assets is as follows -

Track Renewal	45 %
Bridges	10 %
Signalling & Telecom-munication Works	18 %
Rolling Stock	20 %
Safety Enhancement	7 %

(f): The Special Railway Safety Fund will be used to liquidate arrears in assets renewal of important Railway equipment, which had become over- aged and prone to failure. Their replacement will result in greater safety in train operation. The Special Railway Safety Fund will also be used for other measures like track circuiting and upgradation of accident relief equipment, which are expected to ensure enhanced safety in train operation, which in turn will result in greater safety of passengers.

(g): The Special Railway Safety Fund will be funded by a Safety Surcharge on passenger fares imposed w.e.f. October 2001 and a grant from the Union Government.